



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 15, 2003

### EMPORIA, KANSAS WOMAN CONVICTED OF DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE WITHIN 1000 FEET OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Sara D. Dunmire**, 22, Emporia, Kansas, was found guilty on July 15, 2003, following a five day jury trial of one count of conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of an elementary school.

Melgren stated that according to trial testimony from May 22, 2002, through November 18, 2002, Dunmire conspired with Patrick O. Sharkey and others to distribute more than 5 grams (more than .18 ounce) of crack cocaine. On July 28, 2002, Dunmire sold approximately 3 grams (approximately .11 ounce) of crack cocaine from Sharkey's residence, which was located within 1,000 feet of an Emporia elementary school, to an informant working for the Emporia Police Department.

Dunmire faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is scheduled for October 14, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. before U.S. District Judge Sam A. Crow.

Co-defendant **Patrick O. Sharkey**, 27, Emporia, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on April 8, 2003, to one count of distributing approximately 6.57 grams (approximately .23 ounce) of crack cocaine on October 11, 2002, within 1000 feet of an elementary school. Sharkey faces a minimum of five years and a maximum of eighty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for August 7, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Emporia Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Mattivi in this prosecution.